

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of enforcing encryption on a public wireless local area network, the public wireless local area network comprising:
 - at least one access point for the wireless connection of corresponding user terminals;
 - an authentication, authorization and accounting system; and
 - at least one access control point for controlling access to the network, for initiating an authentication, authorization and accounting procedure for an accessing terminal, and for providing an Internet access gateway functionality; the method comprising:
 - authenticating a user terminal to the authentication, authorization and accounting system upon arrival in a service area of the public wireless local area network;
 - requesting access to the Internet by the user terminal; and
 - enforcing applications corresponding to the Internet access request of the user terminal to switch their traffic to an encrypting security service port.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the encrypting security service is the secure sockets layer or the transport layer security.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the enforcement is performed by a responsible access control point.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the enforcement is performed by a responsible wireless local area network gateway.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
retrieving information by the access control point from RADIUS messages which user terminals do not use a 802.11i encryption; and
directing the traffic encryption enforcement only to the such identified user terminals.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the enforced applications are selected from a group comprising the hypertext transfer protocol for browsing the Internet, the Internet message access protocol 4, the post office protocol 3, and the simple mail transfer protocol.

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7. A system for enforcing encryption on a public wireless local area network, comprising at least one user terminal, and a public wireless local area network, which comprises:
at least one access point for the wireless connection of a user terminal;
an authentication, authorization and accounting sub-system; and
at least one access control point for controlling access to the network, for initiating an authentication, authorization and accounting procedure for a user terminal at the authentication, authorization and accounting sub-system upon its arrival in a service area of the public wireless local area network, for

providing an Internet access gateway functionality, and for enforcing applications corresponding to an Internet access request of the user terminal to switch their traffic to an encrypting security service port.

8. The system according to claim 7, wherein the encrypting security service is the secure sockets layer or the transport layer security.

9. The system according to claim 7, wherein the access control point retrieves information from RADIUS messages which user terminals do not use a 802.11i encryption and directs the traffic encryption enforcement only to the such identified user terminals.

10. An access control point network element for enforcing encryption on a public wireless local area network, comprising:

means for controlling access to the network;

means for initiating an authentication, authorization and accounting procedure for a user terminal at an authentication, authorization and accounting sub-system of the public wireless local area network upon arrival of the user terminal in a service area of the public wireless local area network;

means for providing an Internet access gateway functionality; and

means for enforcing applications corresponding to an Internet access request of the user terminal to switch their traffic to an encrypting security service port.

11. The network element according to claim 10, wherein the encrypting security service is the secure sockets layer or the transport layer security.

12. The network element according to claim 10, further comprising:
means for retrieving information from RADIUS messages which user terminals do not use a 802.11i encryption; and

means for directing the traffic encryption enforcement only to the such identified user terminals.